

Newsletter of the  
American Dialect Society

# NADS 38.1

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ADS Annual membership for 2007 is \$50, students \$25; plus \$10 outside the United States. To renew your membership, which includes subscription to the journal *American Speech* and the *Publication of the American Dialect Society* monographs, write to Customer Service, Journals Fulfillment, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660; phone 1-888-387-5765 or 919-687-3602; fax 919-688-2615; [subscriptions@dukeupress.edu](mailto:subscriptions@dukeupress.edu).

ADS Web site: [<http://americandialect.org/>](http://americandialect.org/). To join the ADS-L discussion list, send to [listserv@listserv.uga.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.uga.edu) the message: *Sub ADS-L Your Name*.

From: AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

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**FIRST CLASS**

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# 2007 Executive Council Minutes

*Recorded by  
Allan Metcalf, Executive Secretary*

The Council held its 2007 meeting on Thursday, January 4, beginning shortly after 1 p.m. in the Redondo Room of the Hilton Anaheim, California. Eleven were present when President Joan Hall called the meeting to order: Adams, Barrett\*, Boberg\*, Butters, Carson, Dilworth, Glowka, Hall\*, Kleinedler, Kretzschmar\*, Metcalf\* (\*voting member). Shortly afterward Curzan\* arrived, and near the end of the meeting Eble. Unable to attend: Bayley, Cukor-Avila, Montgomery. Hall thanked outgoing member Robert Bayley for his service on the Council and welcomed incoming member Sali Tagliamonte.

## 1. Reports from editors.

**Michael Adams**, editor of *American Speech*, discussed the possibility of a 64-page pedagogical supplement in the summer issue each year. He would find an associate editor and possibly a separate editorial board for the supplement. **Rob Dilworth**, Editorial/Administrative Manager for Duke University Press, said that the total allowance for *American Speech* and *PADS* combined is 700 pages; at present each issue of *American Speech* is 112 pages. The contract could be changed to increase the number of pages.

The Council approved a motion giving Adams authority to investigate this possibility further and report to the Council.

The Council also approved the following appointments to the Editorial

Advisory Board of American Speech for three-year terms 2007-09: **David Sutcliffe**, U. Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona; **Peter Grund**, U. of Uppsala; **Sali Tagliamonte**, U. of Toronto; **Grant Barrett**, Double-Tongued Dictionary, New York. A motion that all Advisory Board members be required to be members of ADS was approved.

**Robert Bayley**, editor of *PADS*, could not be present, but he sent a report:

*PADS* 2006, **Danny Long's** *English on the Bonin Islands*, will be out in January. We have three more works in different stages of revision or under review.

Two of the three exceed the 250-page limit for *PADS*: one would be 350 pages, the other 400. ADS can afford the \$75 per page extra charge, but those present recommended that Bayley try to get the authors to keep to 250. It was also recommended that the 250-page limitation be added to the *PADS* instructions for contributors, as a recommendation if not a requirement.

**Charles Carson**, Managing Editor of ADS publications, raised the question of indexing. *American Speech* volumes are indexed, but most volumes of *PADS* are not. Recent issues of *PADS* are available and searchable on HighWire (as is *American Speech*). Not all authors are capable indexers, and hiring indexers is expensive and would slow production. Still, Carson was encouraged to pursue indexing *PADS* whenever possible.

**Ron Butters**, General Editor of ADS publications, confirmed that he will be retiring in September 2007. In

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his valedictory remarks, he thanked everyone for nearly 30 years association with ADS publications. When he first took over the editorship of *American Speech*, Bill Labov said to him, with reference to getting variationist articles into the journal, "I would not want the prospect of waking the dead." Nowadays the editor needs to take care that the journal is not just variationist, so Butters was definitely successful at that.

2. On behalf of Duke University Press, **Rob Dilworth** presented a folder of financial and circulation reports, along with marketing flyers for *American Speech* and *PADS*. Among Duke journals, *American Speech* is number one in royalties from e-publishing in EBSCOHost and JSTOR. The rate of attrition for print subscriptions to *American Speech* was 5.7 percent, relatively low for Duke journals. Revenues are strong, and usage and accessibility are stronger than ever, although the press is not making a profit on our journal.

The Council approved keeping membership dues for 2008 the same as in 2007: regular members \$50, students \$25, plus \$10 outside U.S.

3. **Grant Barrett**, Vice President for Communications and Technology, explained that he had not published a print newsletter because so little material had been sent in. Members encouraged print publication of the membership directory, even if there is nothing else. Hall noted that *DARE* can provide its usual invitations for assistance with obscure words, and Curzan said she could provide a report on the ACLS Annual Meeting.

Barrett said Google Print has digitized *Dialect Notes*. Only one volume is available, however; volumes published

after 1900 require our permission. The Council approved a motion to get in touch with Google and give them permission.

4. **Allan Metcalf** distributed copies of the auditors' report for calendar year 2005 and provided this summary:

*Net income from Duke U Press:*

2006:	\$23,700.82
2005:	\$25,276.67
2004:	\$22,667.01
2003:	\$20,506.02
2002:	\$11,850.54 (lower because of PADS expenses \$8,498.74)
2001:	\$19,246.90
2000:	\$5,296.41 (lower because of PADS expenses \$9,195.49)
1999:	\$10,720.20

*Expenses 2006:*

Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, January: (net after receipts)	\$2,569
ACLS and NHA dues:	\$1,111
VPCT stipend:	\$1,000
Executive Secretary office expenses, auditing, travel etc.:	\$4,277
Grants 2006:	
\$500: Linguist List Editorial Support Fund	
\$1,000: The Ohio State University, NWAV	
\$2,000: Travel grants for four students to present papers at Annual Meeting 2006	

*Financial support for future meetings, already approved:*

\$500 for 2007 SHEL conference in Athens	
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\$3,000 for ADS professorship at 2007  
Linguistic Institute at Stanford  
\$3,000 for ADS professorship at 2009  
Linguistic Institute at Berkeley  
\$3,000 for ADS professorship at 2011  
Linguistic Institute at Toronto

*Financial support for student travel to  
Annual Meeting 2008, already approved:*

\$2,000 for four \$500 grants to be  
awarded by ADS president

*The Council approved these additional  
grants:*

\$500 for the Dictionary Society of  
North America, Chicago, June  
\$1000 for NWA  
\$500 for the next Methods confer-  
ence

5. In May 2006, the Modern  
Language Association renewed for  
seven years ADS's status as an "affiliate  
organization" entitled to hold sessions  
at the MLA Annual Meeting. However,  
at present no one from ADS is planning  
such sessions.

**Michael Adams** reported a major  
change in the MLA Annual Meeting.  
Starting in January 2009, it will meet at  
the same time as LSA and ADS in the  
first week of January rather than the  
last week of December. The content of  
the program is also undergoing revision,  
and it may be that the few remaining  
language sessions will be eliminated.

6. **Joan Hall** reported that all the  
early ADS archival records (with the  
exception of *LANE* materials) have  
been moved from the University of  
Massachusetts-Amherst to the Western

Historical Manuscript Collection at the  
University of Missouri-Columbia. The  
WHMC already holds the records of  
the Linguistic Society of America and  
some records of the Dictionary Society  
of North America, as well as the papers  
of Peter Tamony, Gerald Cohen, Donald  
Lance, Allen Read, and Arnold Zwicky,  
so it may well be the appropriate  
repository for the papers of other ADS  
members who retire in the coming years.

7. **Joan Hall** announced that the  
following students have been selected as  
Presidential Honorary Members for the  
term 2007-2010:

**James Martin Beuerlein, Jr.**,  
University of Tennessee  
**Danny E. Flynn, Jr.**, Michigan  
State University  
**Jaclyn Ocumpaugh**, Michigan  
State University

She also announced that these  
students were awarded \$500 travel  
grants to come to the 2007 meeting:

**Erica Dotson**, Emory University  
**Maeve Eberhardt**, University of  
Pittsburgh  
**Jennifer Renn**, University of  
North Carolina  
**Louis E. Stelling**, SUNY Albany

8. The Council appointed these  
regional secretaries for two-year terms:  
Midwest, **Susan Burt** (Illinois  
State U.), replacing Kathryn  
Remlinger;  
South Atlantic: **Michael Picone**  
(U. of Alabama), reappointment.

9. The Council reappointed **Lee  
Pederson** (Emory U.) for a three-year  
term 2007-09 as trustee of the Hans  
Kurath Fund for the *Linguistic Atlas*,

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as recommended by Editor William A. Kretzschmar, Jr. The other two trustees are **Michael Linn** (U. of Minnesota, Duluth), term ending 2007, and **Ellen Johnson** (Berry C.), term ending 2008.

10. The Council approved a resolution declaring October 10, 2007, the

centennial of his birth, as **Frederic G. Cassidy** Day, to be celebrated by drinking Jamaican rum with the toast "On to Z."

11. Bill Kretzschmar reported on the successful transfer of the Kurath Fund investments to an e-trade account.

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## 2007 Business Meeting

Immediately following the executive council meeting, next door in the larger Palos Verdes Room, with 13 members present, President Hall called the Annual Business Meeting to order shortly after 3 p.m.

She reported on the Executive Council meeting and announced that no additional nominations had been received for ADS offices, so by voice vote without opposition the following were elected:

President-Elect (and program chair) for the years 2007 and 2008, President for 2009 and 2010: **Connie Eble**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Executive Committee for the years 2007 through 2010: **Sali Tagliamonte**, U. of Toronto.

Nominating Committee for the years 2007 and 2008: **Matt Gordon**, University of Missouri.

Bill Kretzschmar read the following remembrance of **Ray O'Cain** by **Lee Pederson**:

Raymond K. O'Cain died at his home, October 5, 2006. He was a good friend of mine for more than 40 years. We attended Braves' games, got together almost every time he came to Atlanta,

and engaged in hot-pepper eating contests. Indeed my fondest memory of Ray followed one of these that I won, with him shaking his head in mock-shame, "Out-peppered by a Yankee."

We met in the summer of 1965, when he helped find informants for the *Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States*. He had just finished his BA at the College of Charleston and looked forward to linguistic study at Indiana University. While in Indiana he began as a fieldworker of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* project. Later, he became a key investigator in gathering data for *DARE* in South Carolina. He left IU to study American linguistics at the University of Chicago with Raven I. McDavid, Jr. His University of Chicago dissertation, "A Social Dialect Study of Charleston, South Carolina" (1972), was a ground-breaking effort that undertook to discuss language and culture in the urban South. His review of the second edition of the *Linguistic Atlas of New England Handbook (American Speech 54 1979, 243-79)* provided a comprehensive statement on American linguistic geography during the years following World War II and an important and

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instructive statement on the discipline for anyone who took the time to observe his comments. His work as an editor for *LAMSAS* helped bring its first two fascicles to press before he moved on to other activities of work and study more suitable to his health.

Ray's wife, Maureen, established a permanent record for the large number of students, colleagues, and friends who had been touched by Ray's life. When Joan H. Hall, editor in chief of *DARE*, wrote to thank Ray for his willingness to

elaborate on the history of his fieldwork, less than two months before his death, he summarized his love for dialect research and the value of the *DARE* experience:

"This is an irreplaceable record of American vernacular culture at mid-century. It is a cultural monument. We can learn who we are. There is nothing I have done in life of which I am more proud than to have participated in the work of *DARE*. I delight that my contribution will endure."

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**Book Blurbs** are submitted by ADS members to [administrator@americandialect.org](mailto:administrator@americandialect.org).

**Lisa Minnick's *Dialect and Dichotomy: Literary Representations of African American Speech*** (Alabama 2004), was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title in 2006 by the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. This designation goes to fewer than three percent of the approximately 26,000 scholarly titles submitted to Choice each year for review.

**Fred Shapiro's *The Yale Book of Quotations*** has been published by Yale University Press. This is the first major quotation book to emphasize modern and American sources, and the first quotation book of any sort to use state-of-the-art research methods to comprehensively collect famous quotations and to trace quotations to their accurate origins. More information can be found at <http://www.quotationdictionary.com>.

**Barry Popik and Gerald Cohen: *Studies in Slang, VII*** (150 copies published by Gerald Cohen). 24 articles; 194 pp. Cost per copy: \$30 (\$25 + \$5 mailing cost). Check should be made payable to Gerald

Cohen and mailed to him at: Department of Arts, Languages, and Philosophy, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla MO 65409. Sample topics: Origin of "The Windy City"; hashhouse lingo; various 19th-early 20th century newspaper articles on slang; jazz "axe" = musical instrument; etc.

**Grant Barrett's *Official Dictionary of Unofficial English*** (McGraw-Hill 2006) includes more than 700 entries in a historical dictionary format of terms and expressions that are undocumented or underdocumented in mainstream English.

**Tom Zurinkas** has released ***The Alphabet and Sounds of English: Truespel Book 4***, a reference for those interested in data on the how letters and sounds of American English are used and how they relate to each other. The book uses a large database of 15.4 million words, estimated to include 90% of all words on any typical newspaper-type media page and 90% of all spoken words in general conversation. The book analyzes the 26 letters and how they are used, and then it analyzes the 40 sounds of American English and how they are spelled. Truespel is a better pronunciation guide, says Mr. Zurinkas, because it is English-friendly and keyboard-friendly. It is available through <http://www.authorhouse.com>.

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# American Dialect Society Annual Meeting 2007, Anaheim, California

These papers were scheduled to be presented at the ADS sessions.

*Orthodox Jewish American English—Sarah Bunin Benor/Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, ADS Session 8*

Orthodox Jews' speech includes influences from textual Hebrew/Aramaic, Israeli Hebrew, and Yiddish. Distinctive features exist in phonology (e.g., pre-nasal /ae/ non-raising), syntax (e.g., "He's *already religious* for 20 years"), lexico-semantic (e.g., phrasal verbs: "learn out" 'deduce'), lexicon (e.g., thousands of loanwords), discourse markers (e.g., a hesitation click), prosody (e.g., quasi-chanting intonation) and subtractive features (e.g., cursing taboo). This paper discusses social factors in the creation of this speech variety and argues that, like other ethnolects, it is best analyzed as an inventory of distinctive features from which speakers select variably (consciously and subconsciously) as they construct their hyphenated selves.

*Experiences with Faculty-Undergraduate Collaborative Research in Dialectology—Erica J. Benson/University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, ADS Session 2*

Undergraduate research has been described as "the pedagogy of the twenty-first century" (Dotterer 2002: 81). Although faculty-undergraduate collaborative research is not without its challenges, e.g., inexperienced researchers, lack of resources, it has numerous ben-

efits for students, e.g., increased motivation and enhanced communication skills, and benefits for faculty, e.g., allowing us to accomplish more scholarly research, enhance our teaching through discoveries of local language use/attitudes, and contribute valuable service to our institutions/communities. In this presentation, I reflect on the challenges and benefits of my experiences with two types of faculty-student research: individual and research team projects.

*Vowel Variation in Southern Illinois—Douglas S. Bigham/University of Texas – Austin, ADS Session 6*

Approaches from social psychology can explicate sociophonetic approaches regarding regional and social linguistic variation. Vowel plots for 50 students in Southern Illinois are compared to responses on an attitudes survey regarding the "kinds of people" and the "ways people talk" in both Southern Illinois and the Chicagoland area. By connecting the survey data to the vowel data, I show that how a speaker uses her or his vowel space is as predictive of attitudes about these areas as sociohistorical trends. This finding may call into question issues of dialect diffusion, dialect acquisition, and language change.

*Regional Phonetic Differentiation in Canadian English—Charles Boberg/McGill University, ADS Session 6*

This paper presents new data on the vowel production of 84 speakers of

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English from across Canada, permitting a more detailed analysis of regional variation in Canadian English than was possible in the *Atlas of North American English* (Labov, Ash and Boberg 2006). Wordlists elicited a uniform set of data from each subject, which was analyzed acoustically. MANCOVA tests examined the effect of region on the phonetic measures. Significant regional differences are reported for the position of /æ/ before /g/ and nasals, the advancement of /ahr/ and raised /aw/, and the retraction of /E/ in the Canadian Shift.

*The Importance of Distinguishing Dialect from Register Variation in Teaching Standard English*— **David West Brown**/University of Michigan, ADS Session 2

In trying to meet some of the challenges of dialectally diverse classrooms, researchers and educators have often focused on methods for explicating code-switching. Some preliminary data collected for a study of language education in Washington D.C. suggest that rather than code-switching from AAE into StE at school, students were style-switching from less formal to more formal registers of AAE. In light of this data, it may be useful for methods in the education of both teachers and students to engage in examinations of both dialect and register and be clear about distinguishing between the two.

*Linguistic stability and variation across the lifespan*— **Mariana Chao, Stephanie Colombo, and David Bowie**/University of Central Florida, ADS Session 3

This study adds to the discussion of linguistic change in adulthood by present-

ing analyses of r-lessness, voicing of /m/, and word-medial and -final t/d deletion among ten lifelong residents of the Wasatch Front of Utah who were recorded as adults at decade intervals. The analysis finds significant differences in the linguistic behavior of these individuals at the different times sampled. Further, there did not appear to be a consistent trend exhibited by individual speakers over time. In short, post-adolescent adults change more core features of their linguistic production than is sometimes claimed.

*Listener assessments of dialect use and academic success: An Online Survey*— **Anne Charity, Hannah Askin, and Mackenzie Fama** /The College of William and Mary, ADS Session 2

We developed matched guise surveys that measure listeners' perceptions of African-American English use by African-American elementary school students. The surveys are designed to indicate whether listeners judge students as more academically and socially proficient based on the presence or absence of specific features of African-American English and/or Southeastern American English. In this paper, we focus on the perception of rising vs. flat question contours. Listeners associated flat contours with a lack of social and academic skills. We present the online versions of the surveys, and demonstrate how they can be used as hands-on learning tools to promote linguistic tolerance.

*La pâtisserie de Bayeux: (mis)adventures in transcribing a mega-corpus of Franco-American French*— **Cynthia A. Fox**/State University of New York at Albany, ADS Session 8

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This paper reports on the transcription phase of a project to collect and analyze a large-scale representative sample of the French spoken by the Franco-American population of the northeastern United States. We first describe the transcription protocol and the different measures taken to train and ensure uniformity of practice among our research team. We then provide examples of utterances that were initially misunderstood and of their subsequent reanalysis. We demonstrate how these misperceptions, which frequently provided comic relief during an otherwise arduous task, help us to better understand features that define Franco-American as a distinct variety of North American French.

*Sociolects in Mi Vida Loca – Indexing Identities of Mexican American Youths—Maryellen Garcia/University of Texas, San Antonio, ADS Session 1*

The independent movie, *Mi vida loca, My Crazy Life* (1993), depicts the lives of a girls' friendship network in the Echo Park district of Los Angeles. The Mexican American youths and their boy-friends live by their own code of ethics, values, and honor. Their language—primarily English with some code-switching to Spanish—serves to underscore the unique identity of this group historically, ethnically and societally. This paper examines how specific U.S. sociolects are employed by the characters and how the identities indexed through them serve to portray their ethnicity, peer alignment, and social rebellion.

*The 18th-Century Roots of Southern American Discourse Patterns—Susan Garzon/Oklahoma State University, ADS Session 9*

The speech of American Southerners often juxtaposes polite indirection with potential hostility, as Barbara Johnstone has demonstrated. I trace this discourse pattern to the 18th century, when colonial Virginians battled to uphold their honor within a hierarchical social order. Amid drinking and wagers, convivial conversations easily turned to insult and challenge. However, threatening speech was often mitigated by “elaborate civility,” utilizing hypothetical structures and respectful address terms. Evidence comes from 18th century letters and the comedies of Robert Munford. As southerners moved westward, they transplanted their social order, values, and discourse patterns, modifying them over time.

*AAVE in Pittsburgh: Ethnicity, Local Identity and Local Speech—Shelome Gooden and Maeve Eberhardt/University of Pittsburgh, ADS Session 5*

This paper investigates the use of features of Pittsburgh speech by African Americans in the region. We focus on two variables: the monophthongization of /aw/ and the low-back merger, which differ in their salience in the region. Data analyzed are drawn from sociolinguistic interviews conducted with African Americans in Pittsburgh from three age groups. Findings reveal that whereas speakers reject “whiteness” through avoidance of high-salient features, there is not simultaneous rejection of “localness” since the African American interviewees not only self-identify as ‘Pittsburghers’, but also use less salient features of the local dialect in their own speech.

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*The Effects of Migration on Appalachian Language Variation Patterns*—**Kirk Hazen** and **Sarah Hamilton**/West Virginia University, ADS Session 6

Our analysis of one Appalachian family's language variation affected by migration reveals distinctive quantitative levels of vernacular patterns. One of the most important variables is leveling, with the migrants having a higher rate (70%) of the vernacular variants than those who stayed (45%). The findings indicate that Appalachian migrants negotiate their sociolinguistic identity between their family members and their adopted homes. Once "reunited" in West Virginia, they work to reestablish their sociolinguistic profiles, reinforcing local, West Virginia norms. From our analysis of this one family, migration has affected the language variation patterns of traditional Appalachian speech.

*Principles of Nonstandard Orthography in Folk Dictionaries*—**Sarah Hilliard**/Duke University, ADS Session 4

This paper explores the complex set of issues raised in the representation of speech through writing within folk dictionaries, informal "dictionaries" of nonstandard dialects. Adoption of nonstandard orthography is a pivotal issue within folk dictionaries due to these dictionaries' frequent emphasis on representing phonological patterns in language and their use of alphabetic arrangement. Furthermore, nonstandard spellings may be symbolically loaded, especially in light of the typical place of dictionaries in American society as touchstones of standard spelling and usage. Based on a close reading of approximately fifty folk dictionaries, this

paper describes and analyzes the role of orthography within this genre.

*Hmong in Transition: Acoustic analysis of Hmong American English in the Twin Cities*—**Rika Ito**/St. Olaf College, ADS session 8

This study examines the vowel system of 12 Hmong Americans in the Twin Cities to assess their degree of accommodation to the Northern Cities Shift. The Hmong are one of the latest to arrive in the U.S. from Asia. Preliminary results suggest that Hmong Americans have accommodated their speech to the local norm to some degree. The low front vowel is fronted but not raised for both men and women. The low back vowels are not merged, and both occupy relatively conservative positions. The effect of age, gender, level of education, age of arrival in the U.S. will be discussed.

*The Disappearing Past and the Futures of Pennsylvania German Dialectology*—**Steve Hartman Keiser**/Marquette University, ADS Session 9

This paper reviews changes in the map of Pennsylvania German dialects over the past two centuries noting two main events: the development of a sectarian midwestern dialect in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the obsolescence of regional nonsectarian dialects in Pennsylvania in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The paper then considers current migration patterns and dialect contact scenarios in Pennsylvania and the midwest and looks forward to the next century of Pennsylvania German dialectology—suggesting that future research on dialect divergence and convergence focus on the interaction of geographic proximity, economic inter-

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dependence, and, especially, religious ideology.

*Past Temporal Reference in Black Bermudian English: Perfective Be/Perfective Done*—**Iyabo F. Osiapem**/Washington University in St. Louis, ADS Session 2

This paper seeks to address past temporal reference in the English spoken by 30 Black Bermudians. Although the Black Bermudian English (BBE) past temporal reference is similar to AAE and other Englishes of the Eastern Caribbean, BBE has two features that are unique: Perfective Be and Perfective Done. Perfective Be is the combination of the present perfect with the be verb as in “I’m been doing it so long now.” Perfective Done occurs in the form similar to the perfect as in “I done lived down here for 60 years.” The paper attempts to describe these features and examine their variation.

*Multiple Features, Multiple Identities: A Sociophonetic Profile of Condoleezza Rice*—**Robert Podesva**/Georgetown University, **Jason Brenier**/University of Colorado, Boulder, **Lauren Hall-Lew**/Stanford University, **Stacy Lewis**/Stanford University, **Patrick Callier**/Stanford University, and **Rebecca Starr**/Stanford University, ADS Session 7

This research investigates the linguistic construction of identity in the speaking style of Condoleezza Rice. Acoustic analysis reveals that although Rice grew up in Alabama and spent most of her adult life in California, her speech exhibits few features stereotypic of those regions. Rather, she employs some features of Black Standard English (weakening of unstressed (er) and glottalization of

postvocalic word-final (-d)) and many ‘hyperstandard’ features (e.g., the backing of (æ), high rates of released (ptk), and pronunciations based on orthography), enabling her to maintain ties to multiple identities while cultivating a professional public persona.

*High School Students’ Folk Perceptions of Dialects*—**Jeffrey Reaser**/North Carolina State University, ADS Session 4

This study examines the perceptions of 129 ninth grade students before and after they participate in a 450-minute dialect awareness curriculum in North Carolina. Data come from students’ responses to twenty Likert-type statements and four free-response questions about language. Pre- and post-instructional attitudes are analyzed by sex, ethnicity, and place of birth. The data reveal the extent to which adolescents have homogenous or diverse language attitudes and knowledge and the extent to which these attitudes are malleable. Ultimately, this paper demonstrates how fusing folk linguistic and variationist perspectives can make linguistic gratitude projects, particularly those involving education, more effective.

*The Development of Style Shifting in African American Adolescents*—**Jennifer Renn**/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ADS Session 7

This investigation considers how African American adolescents shift their speech styles based on situational context by examining the speech of 50 sixth-graders. It assesses the use of African American English structures in formal and informal peer contexts to determine which features are affected by the formality of

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the situation. The results reveal shifts in the overall inventory of structures, indicating that adolescents have a growing awareness of the role of situational context in adjusting their speech. Analyses also suggest that not all dialect features are implicated in shifting, so that there is a hierarchy of diagnostic structures in stylistic manipulation.

**Understanding Lansing: Mexican American Listeners in Michigan—Rebecca Roeder/University of Toronto, ADS Session 1**

This study investigates the claim that minority group members whose dialect is different from the mainstream are not as accurate as members of the majority group in their perception of that dialect. Results are based on evidence from 22 Mexican American residents of south central Michigan who were asked to listen to words in isolation, as pronounced during normal conversation by female speakers of the dominant local dialect, and write down what they heard. A comparison of perceptual accuracy and production results reveals an interesting parallelism when compared to findings from similar studies.

*An OT Account of Stress Patterns in African American English: BIN, Been, Dæn, and DO— Nikki Seifert/University of Texas at Austin, ADS Session 2*

In this paper, I present an optimality theoretic (OT) analysis of word- and sentence-level stress patterns in African American English (AAE). I focus on (a) emphatic DO; (b) stressed BIN, nonstressed been, and unstressed dæn; and (c) the interaction of the stresses on these words and beat patterns of phrasal

constituents (following, e.g., Selkirk, 1984, 1995). The data show that lexically stressed BIN affects the beat patterns of a sentence differently than does the pragmatically stressed DO, illustrating the ways in which the AAE lexicon, semantics, and pragmatics interface with phonology.

*Contrasting Patterns of Language Shift in Two Franco-American Communities— Louis Edward Stelling/University at Albany, State University of New York, ADS session 9*

Despite the many parallels between the Franco-American communities of Southbridge, Massachusetts and Woonsocket, Rhode Island, language shift is currently more advanced in Southbridge. Because there is no obvious historical explanation for this difference, this work seeks to explain it through a quantitative analysis of data gathered during fieldwork. Patterns in frequency of language use will be identified within and across the two locations with respect to a number of speaker characteristics. Once these patterns have been identified, a statistical analysis will explain which factors have led the process of language shift to advance to differing degrees in the two communities.

*Using Classroom Technology to Teach Linguistic Diversity— Susan Tamasi/Emory University and Erica Dotson/Emory University, ADS Session 2.*

This presentation demonstrates how classroom technologies, such as Blackboard, can be used to develop an interactive learning experience for teaching about linguistic diversity. For our case study, content, readings, and assign-

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ments are organized around a cohesive theme – a US map – in order to provide students with visual, aural, and textual information regarding American dialects and linguistic issues in the US. Through the use of virtual space in a dynamic environment, students are able to discuss, question, analyze, and identify new concepts and theories. We also discuss issues regarding copyright law that are associated with creating an interactive course.

*“Doctor, This Man’s Tongue Must Be Broken”*: *Dialect and Health Literacy*—**Susan Tamasi**/Emory University, ADS Session 4

As a test of health literacy, the REALM is commonly used by the medical profession to develop strategies for communicating with patients and to prepare health promotion materials. The REALM is a pronunciation test of 66 medical terms, which is scored according to “dictionary pronunciation.”

This paper investigates how linguistic variation affects REALM scores. I analyze the tests of 62 individuals and compare their scores with their use of these terms in taped interactions with physicians. I then discuss how the linguistic community can work with the medical community in addressing issues of health literacy and health communication.

*Ethnic and national self-reference among 19<sup>th</sup>-century African Americans*—**Gerard Van Herk**/Memorial University of Newfoundland and Adrienne Jones/University of Ottawa, ADS Session 5

To investigate the ethnic naming practices and motivations of everyday ante-

bellum African Americans, we extract all ethnonyms for people of colour – including colored, black, Negro, brethren, African, Sons of Ham, and Ethiop(ian) – from 427 letters from African Americans settling in Liberia (1834-1866.) We demonstrate how settlers deployed this repertoire to situate themselves relative to Americans (Black and White), native Africans, and their ancestors, and to claim social and political capital. We suggest that settlers’ frequent use of brethren as an ethnonym reflects indirection as a discourse strategy and suggests a deeper history for the contemporary ethnonyms brother/sister.

*The Impact of Dialect on the Rate and Order of Phonological Development*—**Shelley L. Velleman**/University of Massachusetts – Amherst; **Barbara Z. Pearson**/University of Massachusetts – Amherst; **Timothy J. Bryant**/University of New Hampshire, and **Tiffany Charko**/Agawam Public Schools, ADS Session 3

Developmental mastery of phonetic and phonotactic features is compared in 537 learners of AAE versus 317 learners of Mainstream American English (MAE) from four to 12 years. The later acquisition of certain segments and structures by speakers of AAE is confirmed; their earlier mastery of other elements and structures is reported. Patterns of acquisition are affected by the frequencies and salience of elements and structures of the first dialect. Non-target productions are more likely to be phonetic for MAE learners, phonotactic for AAE learners. This difference increases with age but it is significant even at age four.

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## Special Wolfram Sessions

The symposium *Vowel Phonology and Ethnicity* was held Sunday, January 7, in honor of Walt Wolfram, in conjunction with the conferences of the American Dialect Society and Linguistic Society of America in Anaheim.

*AAE and Anglo vowels in a suburb of Atlanta*—**Claire Andres** and **Rachel Votta** (University of Georgia).

As part of the symposium/workshop on AAE vowel phonology compared with dialects in the same region, this paper discusses the analysis of the vowels of five African American speakers as compared with the vowels of five Anglo speakers from Roswell, Georgia. The analysis suggests that the vowel phonology of AA speakers, while sharing local dialect features, has developed along slightly different lines than those of other residents. The vowel phonology of these groups will be compared with those of other areas discussed in the symposium and with the vowel phonology for the region presented in Labov, Ash and Boberg (2006).

*AAE and EAE vowels across North Carolina*—**Becky Childs** (Memorial University of Newfoundland), **Christine Malinson** (University of Maryland—Baltimore County), **Jeannine Carpenter** (Duke University), and **Angus Bowers** (North Carolina State University).

As part of the symposium/workshop on the vowel phonology of AAE and local koinés, we analyze /ai/, /o/, and other salient vowels for approximately 35 black residents of two Appalachian and two coastal North Carolina communities. Comparing their vowel phonology to the regional koinés, we find the black speakers participate in local phonological patterns,

although this accommodation is subtly affected by a range of social and stylistic factors. The vowel phonology of these North Carolina groups will be compared with other groups in the symposium, and with the vowel phonology for the region (Labov et al. 2006).

*Phonological Variation in East Central Mississippi*—**Ben Torbert** (Mississippi State University).

Outside of Pederson (1991) and LAGS, Mississippi constitutes a relatively under-investigated territory within Southern American English. I will present findings from 2006 interviews conducted primarily in Neshoba County, situated in the low hills of the east central portion of the state and characterized by a tri-ethnic social divide (Whites, African-Americans, and Choctaws). Though technically within the Appalachian Regional Development zone, the area is located transitionally between the Pine Belt in southern Mississippi and northeastern counties currently more associated culturally with Appalachia. These speakers' vowel phonology will be compared with others in the South and elsewhere (Labov et al. 2006).

*African American and non-African American vowels in Cajun Country*—**Thea Strand** and **Michael Wroblewski** (University of Arizona) and **Sylvie Du-bois** (Louisiana State University).

As part of the symposium on the vowel phonology of AAE and local koinés, we analyze the vowels and vowel-r combinations for approximately 20 residents of Cajun communities. Half of these speakers will be African American [+AA] and half non-African American [-AA]. Comparing those phonologies, we find the

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+AA speakers' vowels are only subtly influenced by their accommodation to supralocal AA target phonology; this is consistent with evidence from syntactic change in this community. Both vowel phonologies will be compared with other phonologies analyzed for the symposium and with that of speakers discussed in the Labov et al. (2006).

*Convergence in urban Columbus AAVE and EAE vowel systems?*—**Robin Dodsworth** (CASL, University of Maryland) and **David Durian** (Ohio State University).

Although the Columbus, Ohio, metropolitan area has grown increasingly segregated by ethnicity, particularly between African American and European American residents, analysis of local vowel systems suggests the beginning of convergence between urban speakers of the two ethnicities. Acoustic analysis of 60 speakers' vowel systems shows urban vs. suburban residence to have a stronger differentiating effect -- in particular on the back diphthongs /ou/ and /au/ -- than ethnicity, particularly among speakers under 30. The results are compared with those from the other geographic areas discussed in the symposium, and with the description for Columbus vowels in Labov et al.(2005).

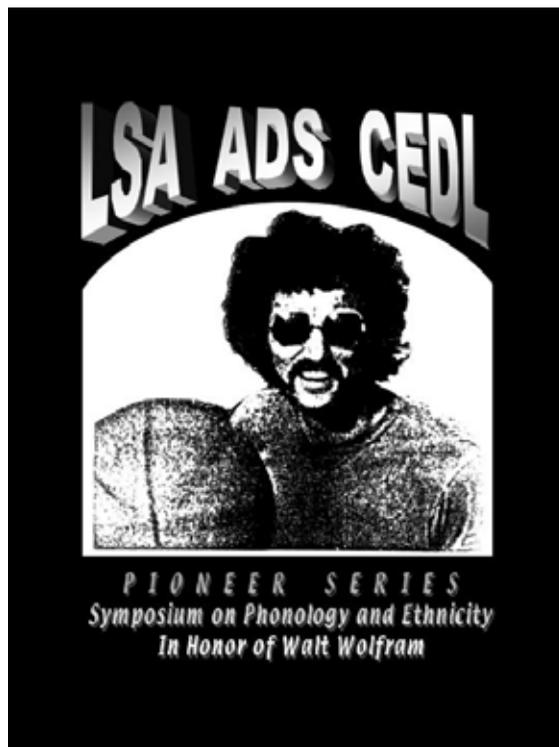
*A Comparison of African American and White Vowel Patterns in America's Most Segregated City*—**Bridget L. Anderson** (Old Dominion University) and **Jennifer G. Nguyen** (University of Michigan)

Much research has examined the vowels of African American speakers in Detroit, but no analysis has compared their vowel patterns to those of Detroit Whites. Given the marked racial segregation of metropolitan Detroit, greater than in

nearly any other U.S. city, it is important to investigate the linguistic connections these groups share.

In this paper, we provide a detailed acoustic analysis of eight vowels for eight White and eight African American Detroiters. Each sample is equally divided by gender and social status, allowing us to examine the similarities and differences between these two ethnic groups and other AA communities nationwide.

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Be the first linguist on your campus to wear the exciting new American Dialect Society pioneer series t-shirt, newly minted in honor of Walt Wolfram! T-Shirts \$12, sweat shirts \$17. Add \$4.10 for priority shipping. Make check out to Malcah Yaeger, and mail it to: ADS T-Shirts, c/o Nova Hinrichs, Cognitive Sciences, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

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# DARE Queries

If you are familiar with any of the following words or expressions, please let us know. It is most helpful if you can give an example or examples of how it is (or was) used, and as much detail as possible about when, where, and by whom. Other data, such as references to written works where the word appears, are very welcome too, but please note that if it can be found with a Google search on the Web we have probably already seen it. Send your responses to George Goebel at *DARE*, by e-mail to [ghgoebel@wisc.edu](mailto:ghgoebel@wisc.edu) (please put “NADS queries” in the subject line) or regular mail to 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706

**soo cat, siccacat**—A fermented (and according to one source, distilled) beverage usually made from cane skimmings. All our evidence is from SC. More data on what this is and how the word is pronounced would be welcome.

**squib**—A (?young) squirrel. We have one quote from AL and one (unlocatable) from the Web.

**Sunday pone, sweat pone**—Both terms seem to refer to the same thing, a particularly dense form of corn bread. Can any one explain the names?

**swallup/swallop**—Apparently a kind of soup or stew. Our only evidence is from PA, and in the combination “chicken swallup.”

**throw (a jump rope)**—We have a few recent examples (meaning to ‘turn’ the rope).

**tick tag**—We have two Black infs from AL (LAGS) and an example on the Web where it was used metaphorically in reference to the “run-around” someone

got when making a complaint.

**toggle fence**—Our only evidence is from ME and New Brunswick.

**tote (one), tote over the mark**—We have a few examples that refer to boys fighting or wrestling; can anyone explain what is going on?

**touch one’s pin**—An inf (Black) from LA says this means “to commit oneself.” Presumably a metaphor from a game, but in what game are the pieces called “pins”?

**tough jack or stiff jack**—A kind of molasses candy. We have three quotes, all from KY.

**town sack**—A colorful, printed paper sack given with a purchase. Our sources are 1971-2, from New Orleans and GA.

**treddan**—To think over, reflect upon. Mysterious oncer in a somewhat dubious TN source.

**tree border**—The grassy area between sidewalk and curb. We have evidence from Wisconsin and Bristol, CT; is this used elsewhere?

**trollock**—Trash, unwanted material. Our quotes, 1901 and 1927, are both from ME.

**trot**—According to a novel set in GA, a snack of “soda crackers and peanuts parched together.”

**truckle**—To walk, go; sources disagree on whether leisure, haste, or compulsion is implied. The evidence is all from the Appalachians and Ozarks.

**trudget, trudgeon**—A small child. We have three quotes, one 1814 citing Washington Irving, and two from around the turn of the 20th century. All are NY, VT. Anything later or elsewhere?

**try**—Be about to. This appears to be fairly common in reference to contracting

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an illness—e.g. “I think I’m trying to catch a cold.” Examples found on the Web are mostly South and South Midland, but we would welcome further data on distribution. Also, does this use of try occur in other contexts?

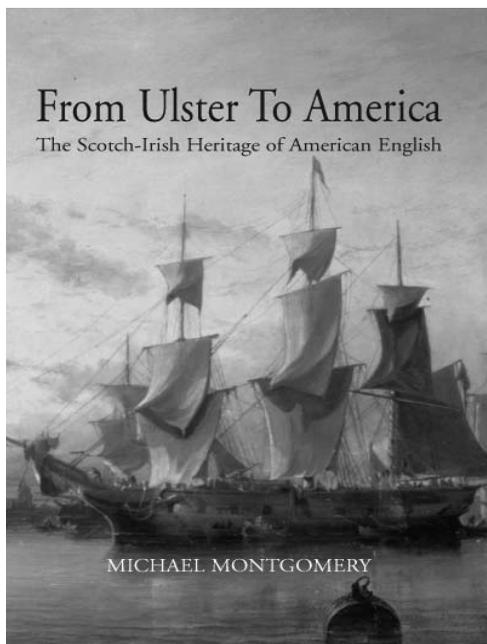
**turf**—To tuft, i.e. to attach layers of fabric together or form a pattern by inserting short lengths of yarn. We have some very scanty evidence that this is or

was in popular use, perhaps especially in reference to making “chenille” bedspreads; it also appears regularly in older patent specifications for tufting appliances.

**tussock liquor**—moonshine. We have three examples, all from SC.

**twilight**—Two PA Infs gave this for a three-cornered scarf. Has anyone heard this term?

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**Michael Montgomery's *From Ulster to America: The Scotch-Irish Heritage of American English*** (Ulster Historical Foundation, 2006) documents nearly four hundred terms and meanings, each with quotations from both sides of the Atlantic, that were contributed to American English by these eighteenth-century settlers from Ulster. Drawing on letters they sent back to their homeland and on other archival documents associated with their settlement, including local fiction and poetry, it shows that Ulster emigrants and their children, who settled mainly in the American interior, gave as much to regional American English as any other group from the Old World. Its pages contain many pleasant surprises: readers will find terms both instantly recognisable and unfamiliar. The numerous quotations not only bring alive the speech of earlier days on both sides of the Atlantic but also extend our understanding of the culture, mannerisms and life of those pioneering times and, through the spoken and written word, poignantly link the past with the present. Available from [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk).

**Book Blurbs** are submitted by ADS members to [administrator@americandialect.org](mailto:administrator@americandialect.org).

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**Submissions.** *PADS* publishes works by ADS members in regional dialects, social dialects, occupational vocabulary, place-names, usage, non-English dialects, new words, proverbial sayings, and the literary use of dialect. Models for these kinds of studies may be found in issues of *PADS*. Proposals and manuscripts for consideration should be sent to: Robert Bayley, Professor of Sociolinguistics, Division of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies, University of Texas at San Antonio, 6900 North Loop 1604 West, San Antonio, TX 78249-0653, email: [robert.bayley@utsa.edu](mailto:robert.bayley@utsa.edu).

**Participate.** Did you know that ADS-L is where

your language colleagues and fellow members of the American Dialect Society are disporting themselves by discussing the linguistic, lexical, and etymological news of the day? The list is now more than 15 years old: more than 17,000 messages have been posted to the list since June 2005 alone. Join the list by sending an email message to [listserv@listserv.uga.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.uga.edu), including in its body “SUB ADS-L” followed by your name.

**Web site.** You can always find the latest American Dialect Society news, including the results of our annual Words of the Year vote, at <http://americandialect.org>.

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